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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

June 3, 2010

Dear Friends:

Several months ago, Governor Martin O'Malley created the Maryland Health Care Reform Coordinating Council to advise the administration on implementing federal health reform as efficiently and effectively as possible. The Council will make policy recommendations and offer implementation strategies to keep Maryland among the leading states in expanding high quality, affordable health care while reducing waste and controlling costs. Federal health care reform challenges us to blend competent, effective government with the skills, experience and needs of the community. Neither government nor the private sector can do it alone.

The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act institutes broad reforms in health care access, quality and coverage, leaving to the states many policy and procedural decisions necessary for implementing reform. As such, the Council is currently seeking public input on two key questions:

- What do stakeholders perceive as the most critical decisions necessary for implementation?
- What topics should be prioritized for workgroups on key implementation issues?

As we move forward, your thoughts and ideas will help the Council to focus on high-level priorities for Maryland. The website is now open to receive your input on these two topics, and we invite you to submit comments by June 18th at www.healthreform.maryland.gov/publiccomment.html.

To stay informed on Council activities and opportunities for participation, please regularly check the Council website at www.healthreform.maryland.gov and sign up for the distribution list at www.healthreform.maryland.gov/involved.html. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

John Colmers
Secretary, Department of Health & Mental Hygiene